

**To:** Flotemersch, Joseph[Flotemersch.Joseph@epa.gov]  
**From:** Rebecca Tharme  
**Sent:** Tue 8/11/2015 4:30:27 PM  
**Subject:** Re: how did that happen!

omg, horrific dramatic river picture that will surely go down in history! How the hell were people allowed to get on it in kayaks - also not great press. Thanks for the article. EPA will have to move like lightening on the media and legal fronts on this one – seems an unfortunate accident really. But also the legacy of not fully requiring orgs. to clean up their mess properly. Unacceptable. Very sad story for the river and communities. No doubt this will damage perception of the EPA too. Lose-lose situation this one.

Hope your week improves, and that the river recovers (but seems unlikely given the contaminants involved?)

Bye for now,  
Rebecca

**From:** "Flotemersch, Joseph" <Flotemersch.Joseph@epa.gov>  
**Date:** Tue, 11 Aug 2015 16:20:04 +0000  
**To:** Rebecca Tharme <rebeccatharme.riverway@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** RE: how did that happen!

Hi Rebecca,

Very little is known at this time. I've attached a link to a news story that discusses some of the thoughts on what might have happen. If you are short in time, skip down to about paragraph 11 that starts with "On the day of the accident.....".

Joe.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/11/us/durango-colorado-mine-spill-environmental-protection-agency.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/11/us/durango-colorado-mine-spill-environmental-protection-agency.html?_r=0)

**From:** Rebecca Tharme [mailto:rebeccatharme.riverway@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2015 12:10 PM  
**To:** Flotemersch, Joseph  
**Subject:** how did that happen!

# Colorado's Animas River turns yellow with pollution

... Last updated at 22:42 BST

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) says it now estimates that a leak that turned a Colorado river yellow has caused three times as much pollution as initially thought.

The Animas River has been closed since five EPA workers accidentally sent contaminated water pouring downstream.

The pollution includes lead, cadmium and arsenic.

More than 1,000 wells may have been affected by yellow water stretching over 100 miles (160km) into neighbouring New Mexico.

**Dr Rebecca Tharme**

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